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DESTRO
image
#02

ENERGON UNIVERSE

CONFIDENTIAL

M ALIAS DESTRO

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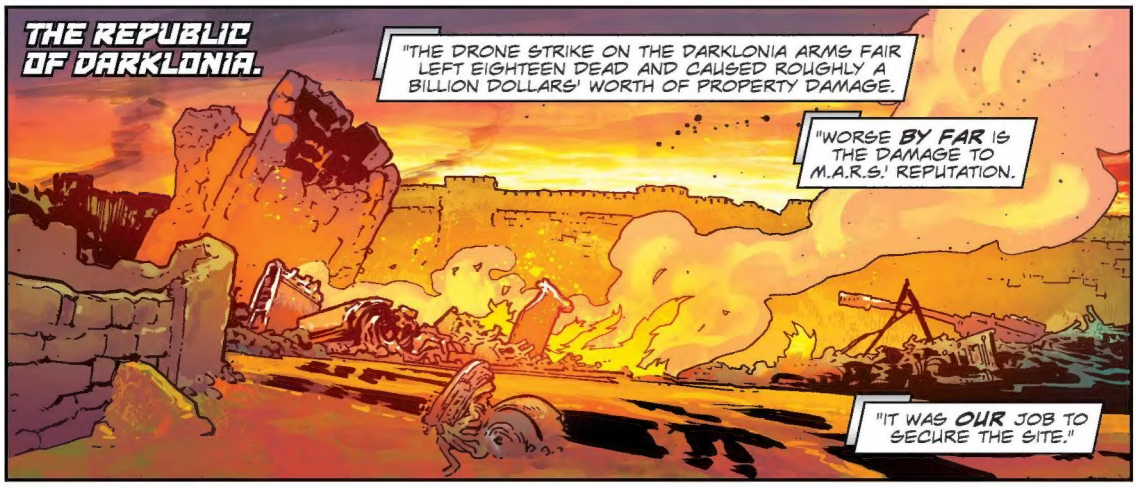
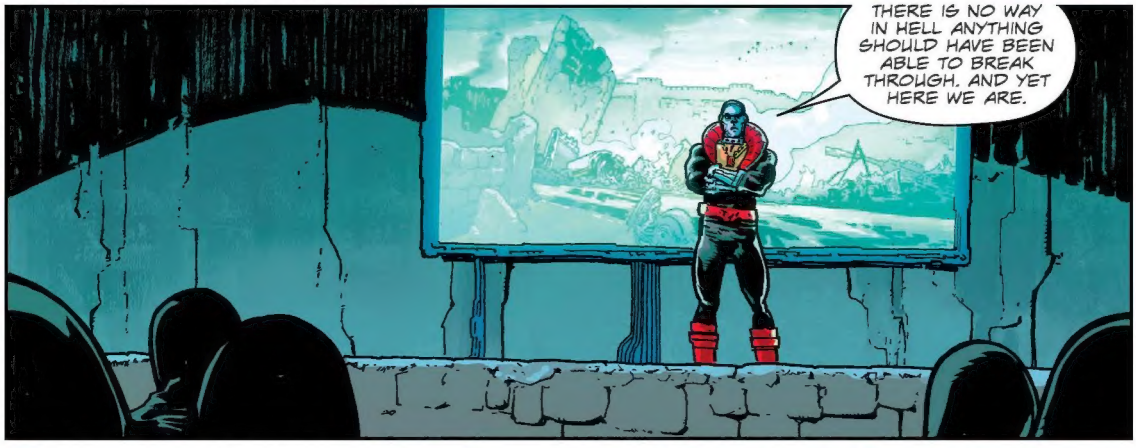
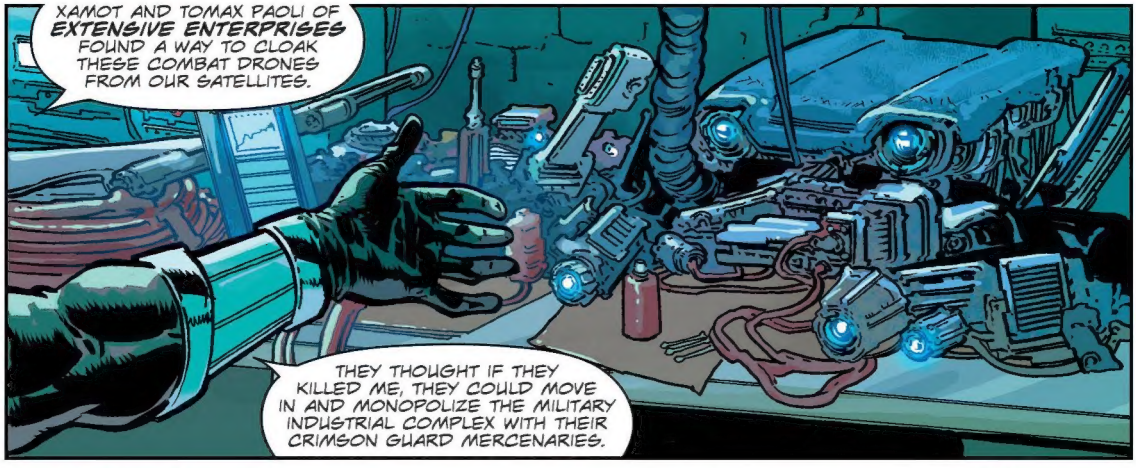
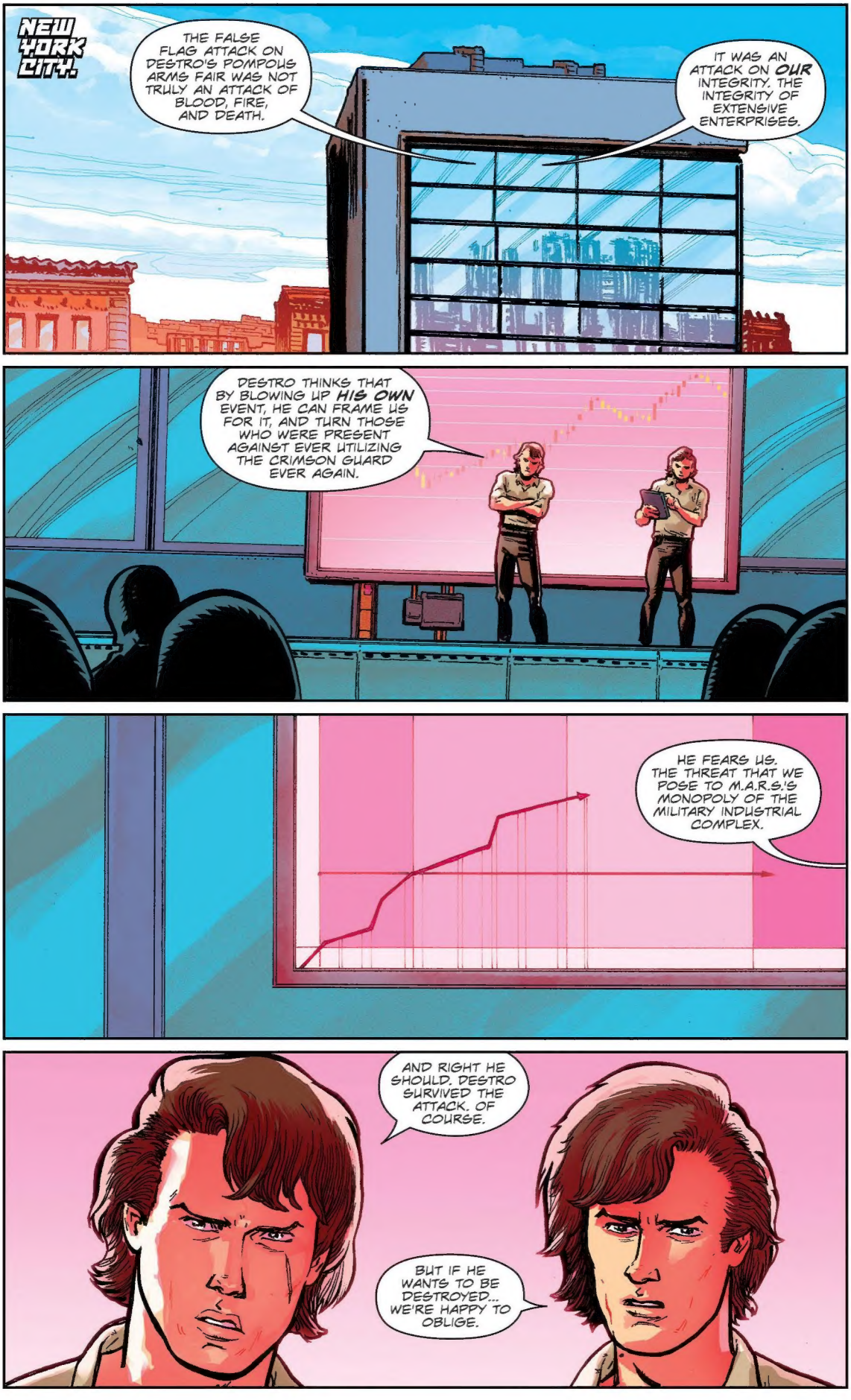

THE REPUBLIC OF DARKLONIA.
"THE DRONE STRIKE ON THE DARKLONIA ARMS FAIR LEFT EIGHTEEN DEAD AND CAUSED ROUGHLY A BILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF PROPERTY DAMAGE.
"WORSE BY FAR IS THE DAMAGE TO M.A.R.S.' REPUTATION.
"IT WAS OUR JOB TO SECURE THE SITE."

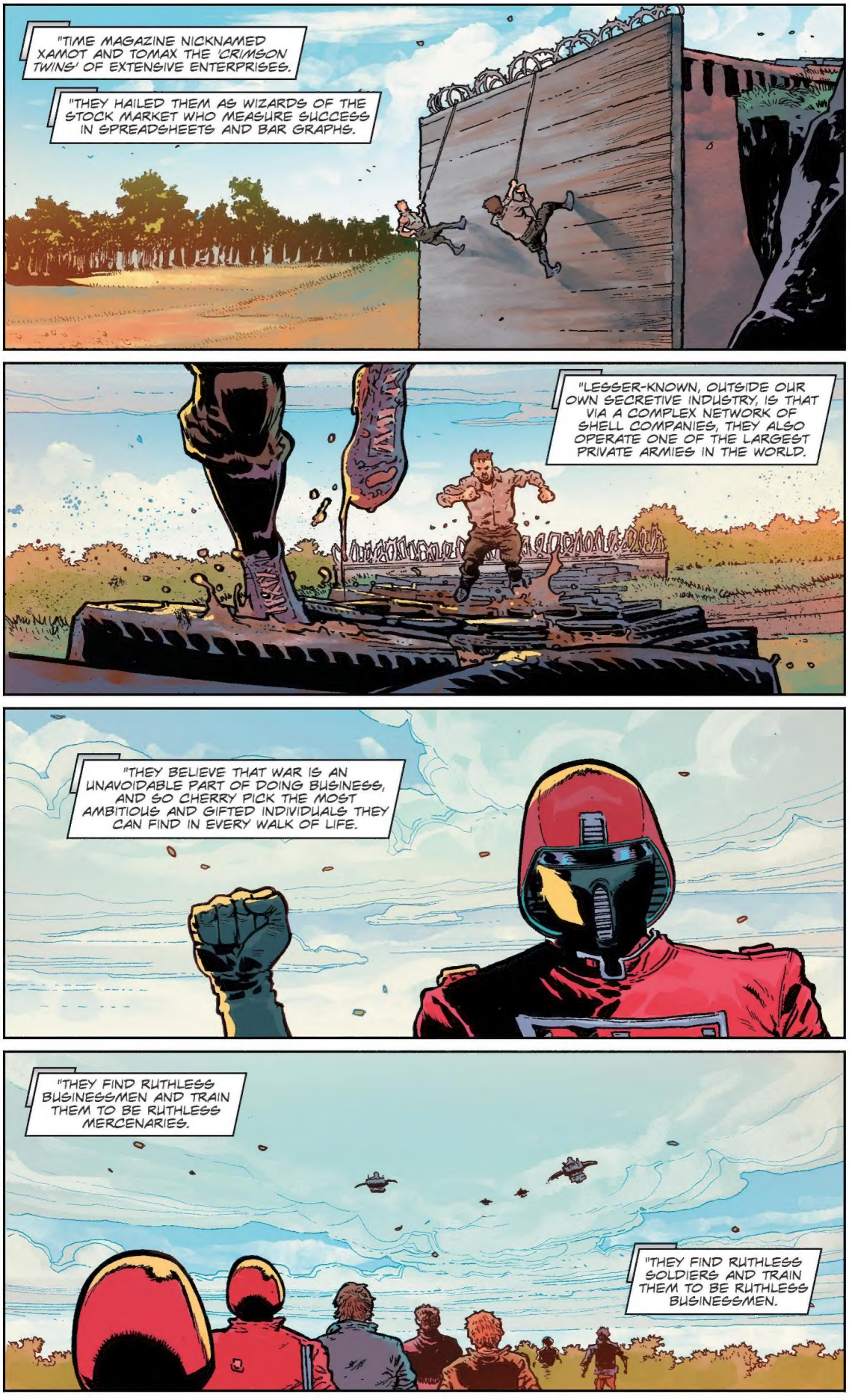

THERE IS NO WAY IN HELL ANYTHING SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH. AND YET HERE WE ARE.


XAMOT AND TOMAX PAOLI OF EXTENSIVE ENTERPRISES FOUND A WAY TO CLOAK THESE COMBAT DRONES FROM OUR SATELLITES.
THEY THOUGHT IF THEY KILLED ME, THEY COULD MOVE IN AND MONOPOLIZE THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WITH THEIR CRIMSON GUARD MERCENARIES.

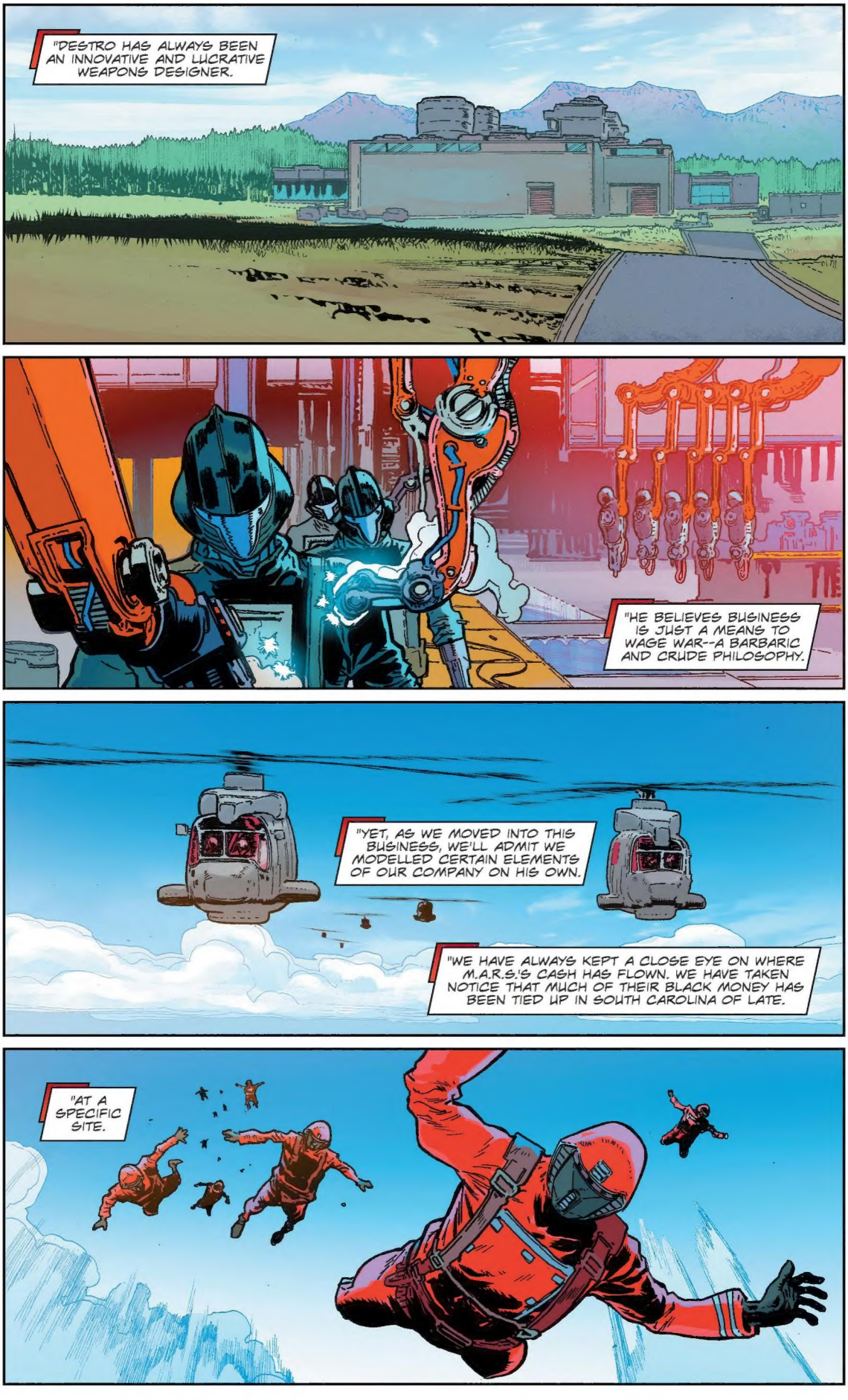
BUT THEY DID NOT KILL ME.
AND SO I AM GOING TO RAZE THEM TO THE GROUND AND SALT THE EARTH.


NEW YORK CITY.
THE FALSE FLAG ATTACK ON DESTRO'S POMPOUS ARMS FAIR WAS NOT TRULY AN ATTACK OF BLOOD, FIRE, AND DEATH.
IT WAS AN ATTACK ON OUR INTEGRITY. THE INTEGRITY OF EXTENSIVE ENTERPRISES.
DESTRO THINKS THAT BY BLOWING UP HIS OWN EVENT, HE CAN FRAME US FOR IT, AND TURN THOSE WHO WERE PRESENT AGAINST EVER UTILIZING THE CRIMSON GUARD EVER AGAIN.
HE FEARS US. THE THREAT THAT WE POSE TO M.A.R.S.'S MONOPOLY OF THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.
AND RIGHT HE SHOULD. DESTRO SURVIVED THE ATTACK, OF COURSE.
BUT IF HE WANTS TO BE DESTROYED... WE'RE HAPPY TO OBLIGE.

M.A.R.S. HAS THE SUPERIOR FIREPOWER. BY FAR.
EXTENSIVE HAS THE SUPERIOR MANPOWER. BY FAR.
AND IN THE END, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS IN WAR...
...SO WE'RE GOING TO HIT THEM WHERE IT HURTS.

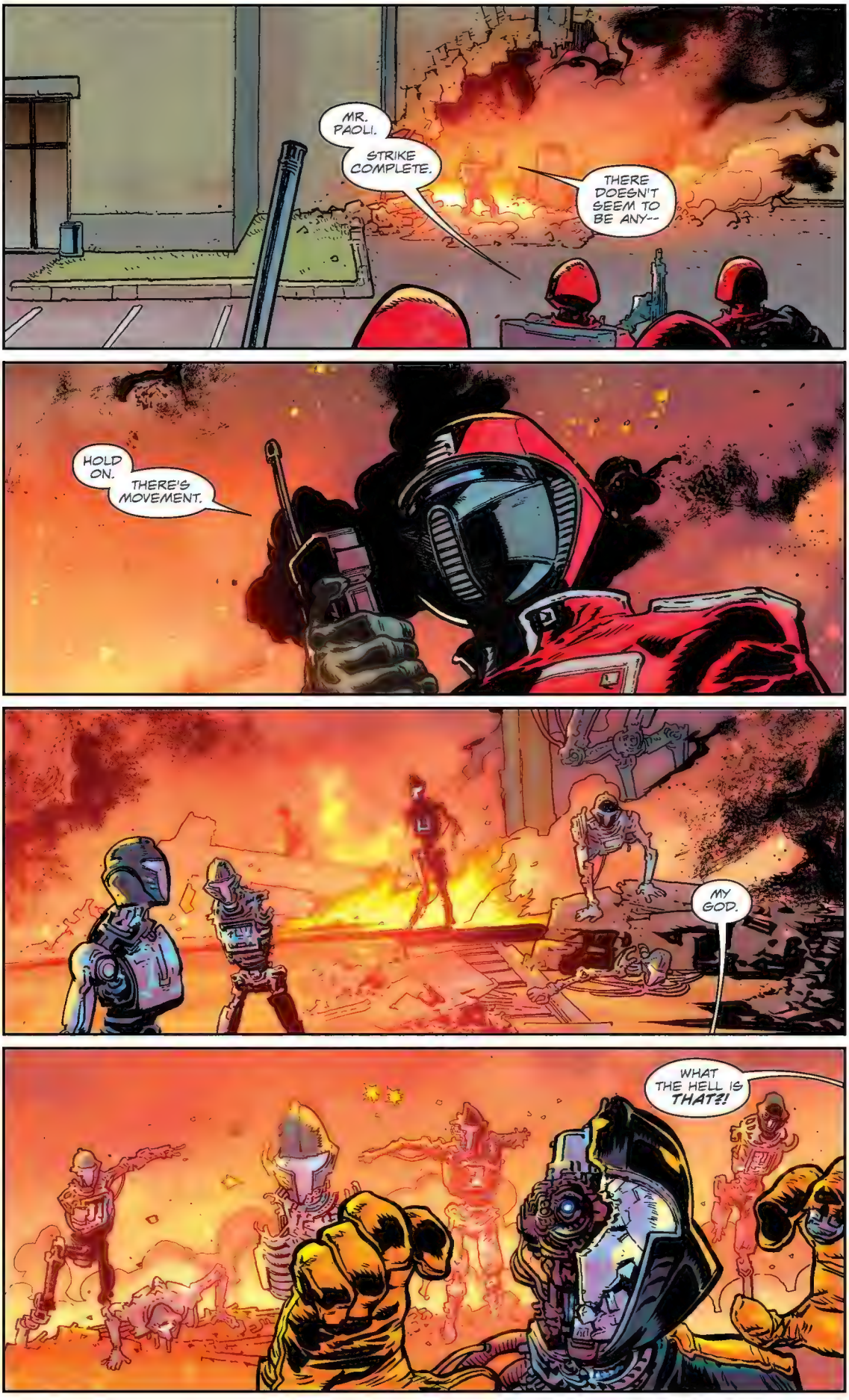

"TIME MAGAZINE NICKNAMED XAMOT AND TOMAX THE 'CRIMSON TWINS' OF EXTENSIVE ENTERPRISES.
"THEY HAILED THEM AS WIZARDS OF THE STOCK MARKET WHO MEASURE SUCCESS IN SPREADSHEETS AND BAR GRAPHS.
"LESSER-KNOWN, OUTSIDE OUR OWN SECRETIVE INDUSTRY, IS THAT VIA A COMPLEX NETWORK OF SHELL COMPANIES, THEY ALSO OPERATE ONE OF THE LARGEST PRIVATE ARMIES IN THE WORLD.
"THEY BELIEVE THAT WAR IS AN UNAVOIDABLE PART OF DOING BUSINESS, AND SO CHERRY PICK THE MOST AMBITIOUS AND GIFTED INDIVIDUALS THEY CAN FIND IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE.
"THEY FIND RUTHLESS BUSINESSMEN AND TRAIN THEM TO BE RUTHLESS MERCENARIES.
"THEY FIND RUTHLESS SOLDIERS AND TRAIN THEM TO BE RUTHLESS BUSINESSMEN.

"THEY BRING THE BEST OF THE BEST TO THEIR TRAINING GROUND IN BELARUS..."
KABOOM
JUST LOOK AT HOW THOSE BEAUTIFUL, EDUCATED MINDS SPLATTER ON THE GROUND.


"DESTRO HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INNOVATIVE AND LUCRATIVE WEAPONS DESIGNER.
"HE BELIEVES BUSINESS IS JUST A MEANS TO WAGE WAR--A BARBARIC AND CRUDE PHILOSOPHY.
"YET, AS WE MOVED INTO THIS BUSINESS, WE'LL ADMIT WE MODELLED CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF OUR COMPANY ON HIS OWN.
"WE HAVE ALWAYS KEPT A CLOSE EYE ON WHERE M.A.R.S.'S CASH HAS FLOWN. WE HAVE TAKEN NOTICE THAT MUCH OF THEIR BLACK MONEY HAS BEEN TIED UP IN SOUTH CAROLINA OF LATE.
"AT A SPECIFIC SITE.

"SATELLITE IMAGES SUGGEST IT'S SOME SORT OF FACTORY..."
NOT ANYMORE.

SIR. THE CRIMSON GUARD HAVE JUST HIT THE B.A.T.S FACTORY IN S.C.
THEN ACTIVATE THEM.
BUT...MOST OF THE UNITS ARE IN EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT.
THAT FACILITY CONTAINS OUR PRIMARY STORE OF ENERGON. THE TWINS CANNOT LAY EYES ON IT.
"ACTIVATE EVERY UNIT. REGARDLESS OF STATUS.
"WE MUST GUARANTEE NO WITNESSES."


MR. PAOLI.
STRIKE COMPLETE.
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY--
HOLD ON.
THERE'S MOVEMENT.
MY GOD.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

REPORT!
SIRS. WE'VE ALSO GOT INCOMING AT THE TRAINING GROUND IN BELARUS.
WE SUSPECTED HE'D TRY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
"...MORE DESPOILERS?"
YESSIR.
WHEEL OUT THE A.S.P.S.
"WE'VE CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR WITH M.A.R.S. FOR A WHILE NOW..."

"...WE'VE MADE PREPARATIONS."
A.S.P. ASSAULT SYSTEM POD
PROTECTIVE ROLLCAGE
TWIN 120MM ELIMINATOR CANNONS
SHELL-PROOF DEFLECTOR SHIELD

BANG BANG
BANG BANG
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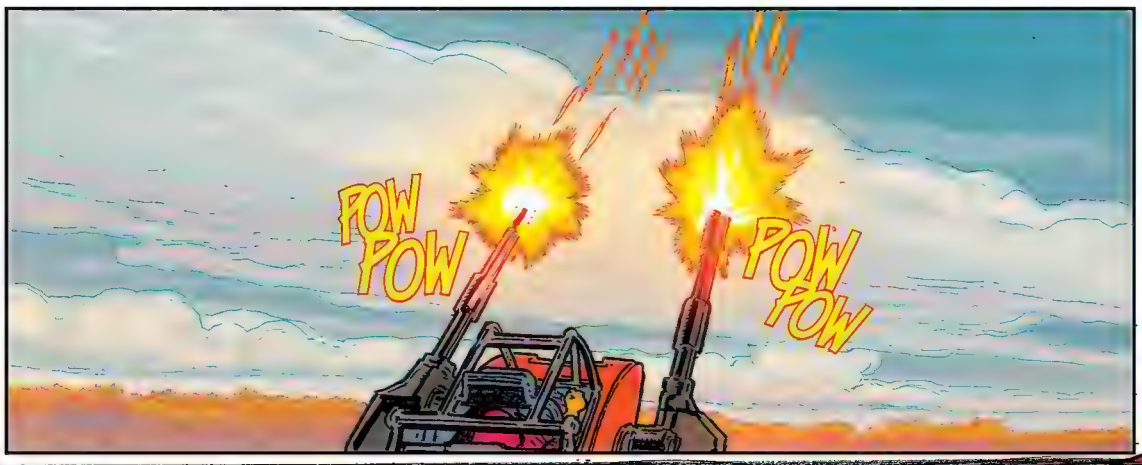
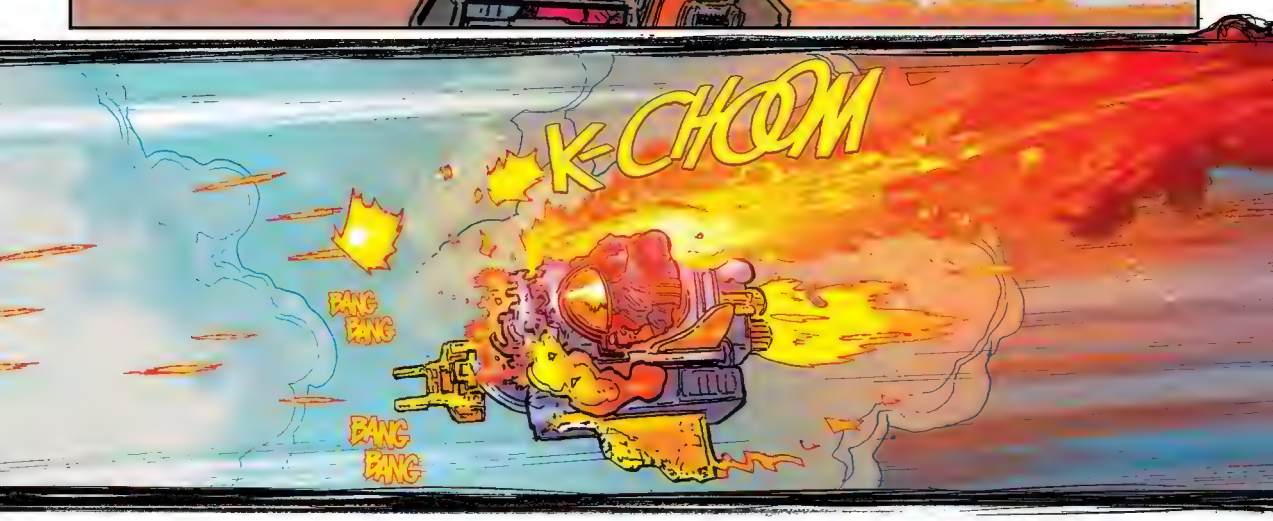
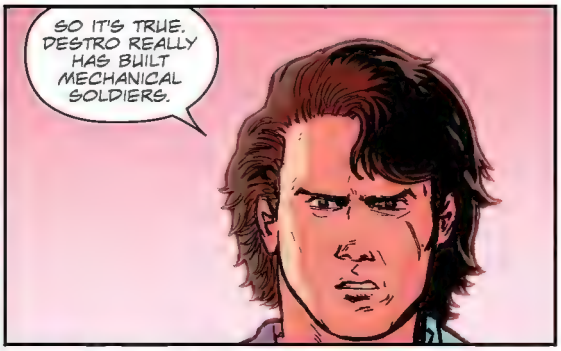

POW POW
POW POW


K-CHOOM
BANG BANG
BANG BANG

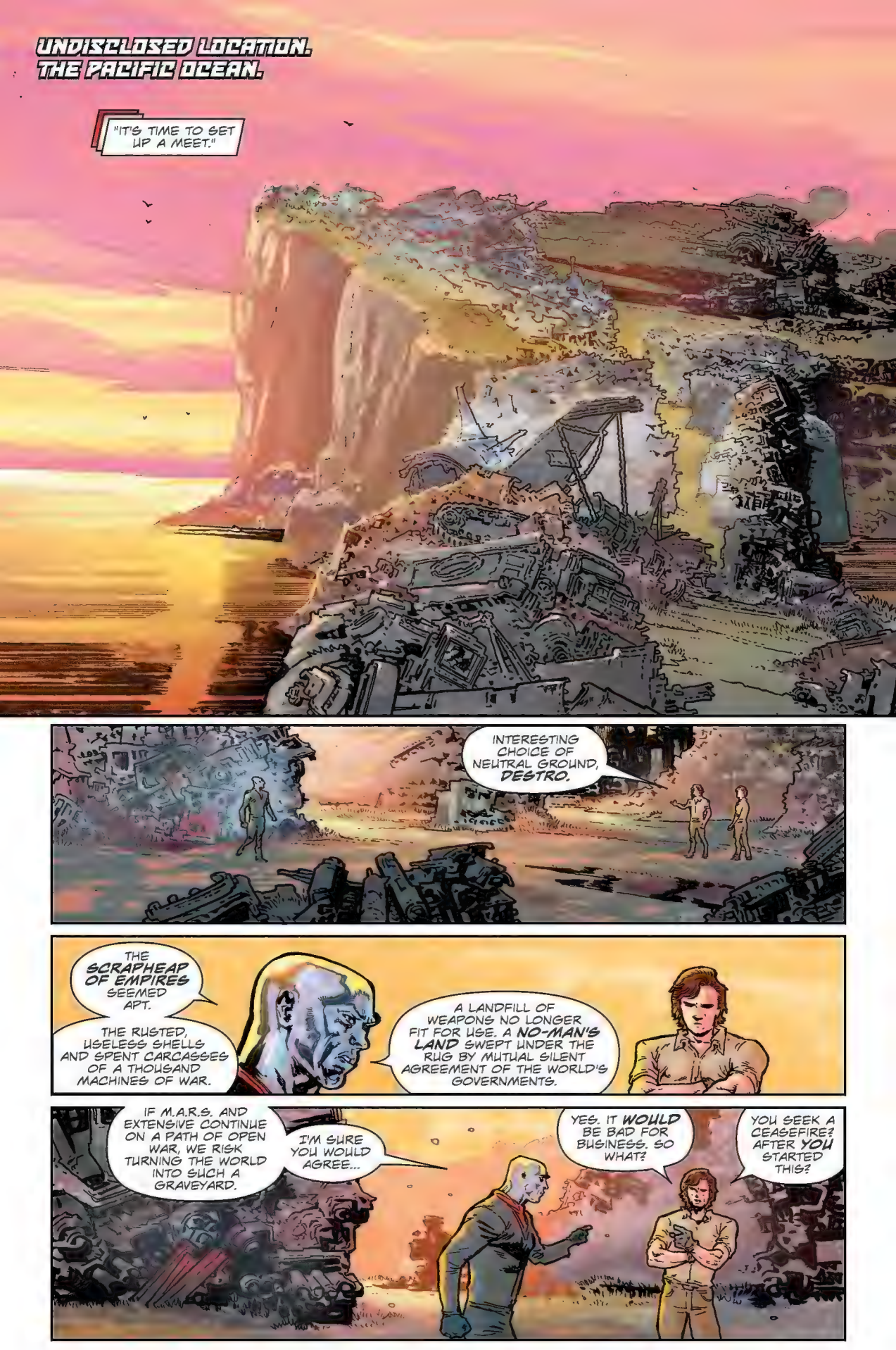
BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG
POW POW
POW POW
POW POW

HMM. THEY'VE GOTTEN THEIR HANDS ON MY ANTI-AIRCRAFT POD DESIGN. AND GOT THEM FUNCTIONAL. I'M ALMOST IMPRESSED.


SO IT'S TRUE. DESTRO REALLY HAS BUILT MECHANICAL SOLDIERS.

WELL. I THINK OUR POINT IS MADE...

DESTRO SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S DEALING WITH NOW...


UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
THE PACIFIC OCEAN.
"IT'S TIME TO SET UP A MEET."
INTERESTING CHOICE OF NEUTRAL GROUND, DESTRO.
THE SCRAPHEAP OF EMPIRES SEEMED APT.
THE RUSTED, USELESS SHELLS AND SPENT CARCASSES OF A THOUSAND MACHINES OF WAR.
A LANDFILL OF WEAPONS NO LONGER FIT FOR USE. A NO-MAN'S LAND SWEPT UNDER THE RUG BY MUTUAL SILENT AGREEMENT OF THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS.
IF M.A.R.S. AND EXTENSIVE CONTINUE ON A PATH OF OPEN WAR, WE RISK TURNING THE WORLD INTO SUCH A GRAVEYARD.
I'M SURE YOU WOULD AGREE...
YES. IT WOULD BE BAD FOR BUSINESS. SO WHAT?
YOU SEEK A CEASEFIRE? AFTER YOU STARTED THIS?

YOU LIE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE ARMS FAIR, EVEN TO MY FACE.
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU BOTH.
I'M GOING TO PUT YOUR HEADS ON SPIKES ABOVE THE REVOLVING DOORS OF YOUR OFFICE FOYER.
PLEASE.
IT WON'T BE NOW. NOT TODAY. I AGREED TO MEET YOU FOR A DISCUSSION. I AM A MAN OF MY WORD.
A MAN OF YOUR WORD. AFTER WHAT YOU DID IN DARKLONIA?
WHAT I DID?

ALL THIS DETRITUS. DID YOU KNOW THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS EVEN LOST SIX NUCLEAR WARHEADS SINCE 1950?
FOR THE MOST PART, AFTER ACCIDENTS INVOLVING AIRCRAFT OR SUBMARINES OVER OR IN DEEP OCEAN.
THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THEY HAVE A ROUGH IDEA WHERE EACH LIES. THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE UNRECOVERABLE.
THEY ARE WRONG.
A FEW YEARS AGO, I MADE IT A PERSONAL PROJECT TO HAVE THEM ALL RETRIEVED.
CALL IT A HOBBY.
ONE IS TARGETED AT THESE COORDINATES RIGHT NOW.
ANOTHER LIE. YOU'RE BLUFFING.
PULL THAT TRIGGER, AND YOU WILL KNOW THAT I DO NOT LIE.

WHAT ARE YOU PROPOSING?
EACH OF OUR COMPANIES IS BIGGER THAN THE MEN AT ITS HEAD. IT WOULD BE A PITY TO TURN EITHER TO ASH.
I LOATHE YOU BOTH. BUT WHEN YOU ARE DEAD, I WILL BE PLEASED TO ABSORB EXTENSIVE ENTERPRISES INTO M.A.R.S.
IT WILL HAPPEN THE OTHER WAY.
WE WILL DISMANTLE M.A.R.S. AND EQUIP OUR TROOPS WITH EVERYTHING YOU HAVE BUILT. YOU WILL BE A FOOTNOTE IN OUR SUCCESS.
VERY WELL THEN, GENTLEMEN. TO THE DEATH. WITHOUT COLLATERAL DAMAGE.
SEE YOU SOON.

THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS.
COORDINATES HIGHLY CLASSIFIED.
"IT IS A LONG WALK, EACH TIME I REQUIRE GUIDANCE AND SOLACE. THAT IS HOW IT MUST BE.
"SOME THINGS ARE TOO SACRED TO RISK AS A TARGET. TOO TRULY IRREPLACEABLE.
"EVEN THE MOST LOYAL OF MY IRON GRENADIERS CANNOT KNOW THIS LOCATION. IT IS NOT IN A SINGLE DATABASE.
"I COME HERE, EACH TIME, WITH MINIMAL EQUIPMENT. NOTHING THAT COULD BE TRIANGULATED.
EXISTENCE OF THE TOMB IS KNOWN ONLY BY THOSE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE THE BLOOD OF CLAN DESTRO IN THEIR VEINS.
XAMOT AND TOMAX WILL SEND ASSASSINS FOR ME. BUT THEY WILL FIND I HAVE BECOME A GHOST IN THE WIND.
MINE WILL FIND THEM WEARING GUCCI SUITS IN A MANHATTAN PENTHOUSE.

"THIS WAR IS ALREADY OVER."
CHAMELEON TO OVERKILL.
EVERYTHING IS ON SCHEDULE. DESTRO THINKS HE'S A VERY CLEVER LITTLE BOY...
"LET'S SEE HOW MANY CHROME FRAGMENTS HIS SKULL SHATTERS INTO."
TO BE CONTINUED...

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

[redacted]

GIJOE@SKYBOUND.COM

WHAT A CLIFFHANGER! Dan, Andrei and Adriano delivered a stellar second issue and I hope you enjoyed it…and welcome to the DESTRO letter column! As always, editor Ben Abernathy joining you and please send us letters, let us know what you think of the series (good and bad)…but for now, I'll take the opportunity to run some letters we received for COBRA COMMANDER…

Thank you. Because of these two wonderful G.I. Joe titles, I am once again a regular--with a pull box--at my local LCS. Last time was in college.

Destro and Scarlett are pre-ordered, and I just read the Transformers TPB: Loved it.

Some questions and observations:

1) CC5, top of page 8. This Cobra Commander (Old Snake with the hat) NEEDS a Classified figure.

AGREED!

2) So does Pythona.

DITTO!

3) You are correct. Every Joe is someone's favorite, and mine is Flash. I hope you will give him something to do (other than die "red shirt style"). Actually, please, if you use him: don't kill him.

Hmm…I'll see what we can do.

4) I take it Mercer eventually turns good? It's very interesting for me seeing him in the midst of CC and Destro….wondering when and if his "face turn" will occur? He's definitely being set up as a major character and I look forward to seeing his story play out.

Who knows what will happen in the coming years of the Energon Universe!

5) Thank you for bringing back Clutch. He's one of ARAH's best characters.

I think we'd ALL agree on this. Clutch rules!

And, thanks again for the great stories and for getting me back into the comic shop.

Best,
James "Roland" Millsaps

Thanks for the letter and support, James. Happy to hear you're back at your LCS and supporting us--that means the world!

Greetings,

Guys I just wanted to say how much I enjoy the way the Energon Universe has been laid out so far. Cobra Commander has finally been done justice in that he has been made into the villain he should have been from the start. I grew up with the G.I. Joe cartoon as a kid and loved it, but always hated the way Cobra Commander was a constant cowardly buffoon. I realize having a cold-blooded murderer in a kid's cartoon would have been very impracticable, but there was no way this guy could have even started Cobra let alone lead it. The Commander you have created is intelligent, resourceful and ruthless. So far, he's tricked Golobulus, took out Nemesis Enforcer, withstood the Dreadnoks torture and convinced a powerful arms dealer (Destro) to help increase his own power. This is a person who is definitely believable as creator and leader of this evil organization. Keep up the good work and COBRA!!!!!

Michael Commini

P.S. The very first issue of Duke I noticed Destro's bodyguard shares the same name and look as the ex-cobra viper in the G.I. Joe movie. Coincidence?

Thank you for reading and supporting the series. I think what Joshua, Andrea, and Annalisa did on COBRA COMMANDER was remarkable and have added a fascinating chapter in the first year of the Energon Universe…and ARE there coincidences?

Hello G.I. Joe team!

First off all, I just want to congratulate you on this book. It is one of my favorite from the EU.

When I was a child, I never got into G.I. Joe, but I really loved the Transformers cartoons, not the original G1 but the Unicron Trilogy (great series btw) and when I picked up Void Rivals and realized that this is the start of a brand new, fresh universe with Transformers AND GI JOE I knew I had to pick up all of them. And all of them are great, especially Cobra Commander which is always on top of my preorder list.

Never knew much about GI JOE or Cobra C, but now...I'm super intrigued and...if I could find a bit of free time, I would go watch the original cartoon. Also, Joshua is a phenomenal writer, I buy almost all his books and always listen to his podcast with Sal from Comic Pop.

Much love from aaaalll the way on the other side of the globe--

Alin
Bucharest, Romania

Thank you for reading and writing us from halfway around the world. The reach of the Energon Universe knows no bounds! And I agree-- Joshua is a pretty phenomenal writer. Have you checked out DARK RIDE or BIRTHRIGHT? They're a pair of terrific originals he's written for Skybound…but also, he's got another BIG series in the E.U. coming…

Hi,

Just popping in to say that Cobra Commander has been better than I could have imagined. I have mostly read G.I. Joe, since the 80s, through my brother's nearly complete collection; this is the first I've really been inspired to get my own. I started getting it because it ties into the Transformers series, but it immediately became a compelling purchase entirely on its own rights.

I really love what you've been doing with Cobra Commander's character. I am a fan of Starscream, who of course was also voiced by Christopher Charles Collins, but I always thought that, while the two characters were both craven whiners, the robot was just a little more respectable because he was a craven whiner who was currently Number Two and wanted to be Number One, whereas Cobra Commander was already Number One and was constantly in a position of losing it. This made for a dynamic where even if Starscream was clearly incapable of being the leader, it didn't matter, because he wasn't the leader, while CC was in the semi-unbelievable position of being both inept and the leader. Now, Cobra Commander comes across as both a whiner AND formidable, which is great. I hope to see Starscream survive his fall and team up with CC at a later date!

--Chris

Thanks for reading, Chris, it's much appreciated. I think you'll soon see just how formidable our Cobra Commander is…

My journey with G.I. Joe began with the action figures during my childhood in the 1980s. I liked Transformers and Masters of the Universe toys, but my G.I. Joe collection was hands down my favorite. Of course, I also watched the cartoon series and started collecting the comic books back then. I've still bought different Joe stuff on a fairly decent basis from being a kid until now. I don't stay in tune with everything that comes out, but I keep an eye peeled for that which grabs my attention.

One of those things was this Cobra Commander series. It looked pretty neat, so I figured I would give it a shot.

Dudes...this is a banger.

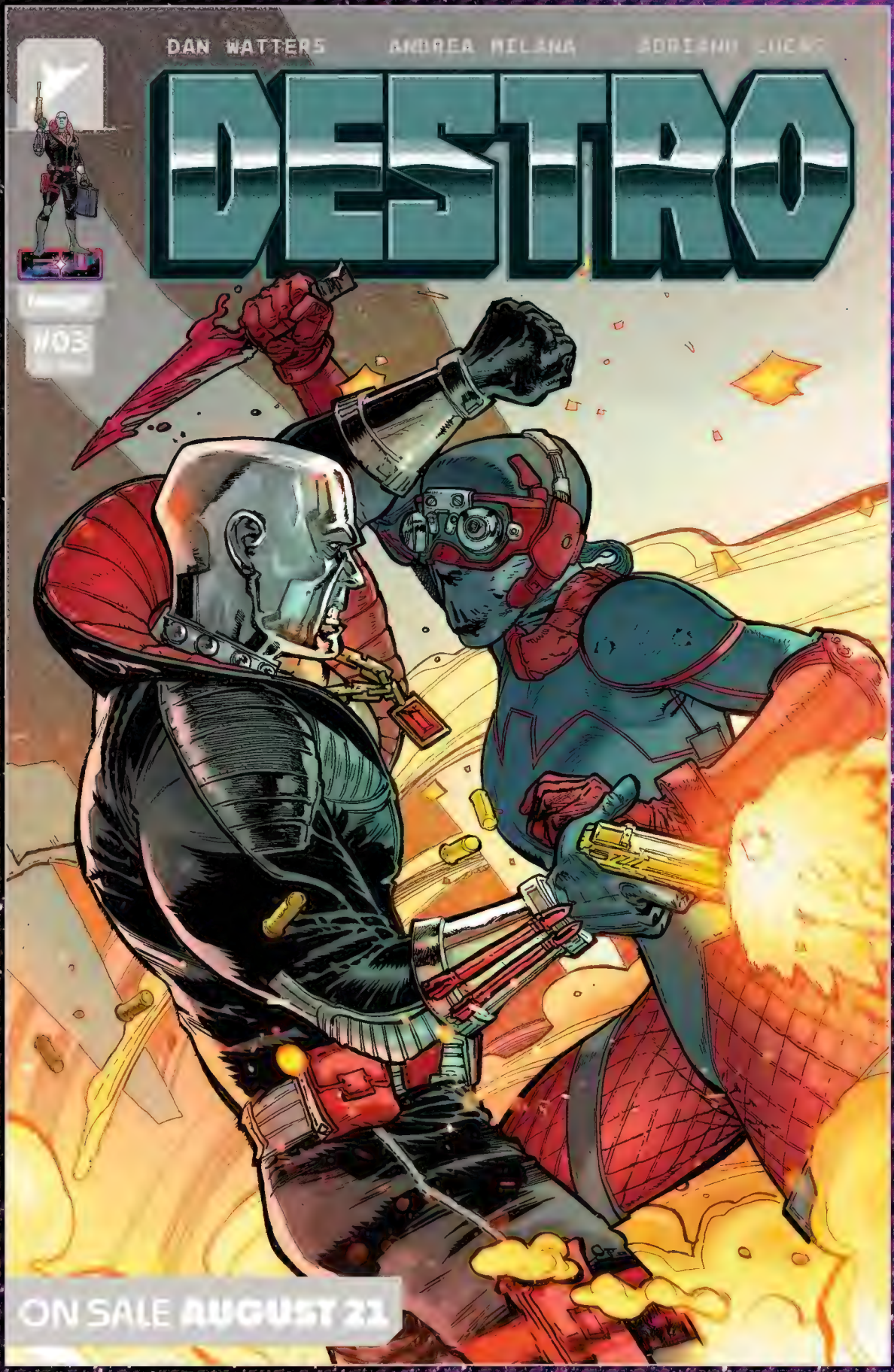
Issue #3 was wild! The whole torture scene was hardcore. I liked seeing the Dreadnoks go about it in their own personal ways. The smiley face with blood on Cobra Commander's helmet was dope. Those pages with Nemesis Enforcer at the end are what really got me, though. Can't wait to check out the rest of the books!

--Darrick Patrick

What a great letter and I 100% agree on all counts haha!

Next month is going to be a BLAST as COBRA COMMANDER artist Andrea Milana joins us for a brutal issue that will get everyone talking…I'm looking forward to your thoughts!

--Ben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#03
ON SALE AUGUST 21

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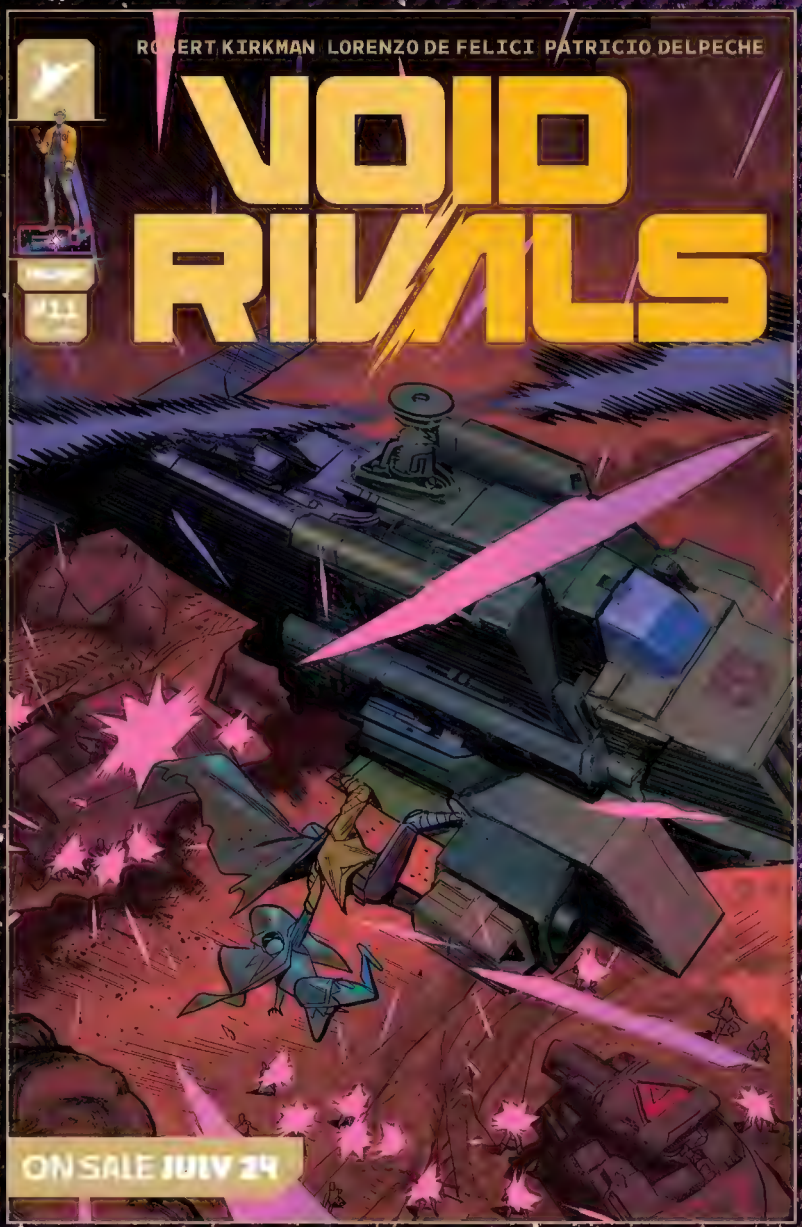

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SCARLETT
#1
ON SALE AUGUST 7

DANIEL JOHNSON JORGE CORONA MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
image
#11
ON SALE AUGUST 14

CODENAME G.I. JOE CONTINUES
SCARLETT
Red-hot writer KELLY THOMPSON (DC's Birds of Prey) and artist MARCO FERRARI (Frontiersman) introduce some of the most anticipated characters to the Energon Universe.
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WELCOME TO THE ENERGON UNIVERSE

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EXPERIENCE THE ENERGON UNIVERSE

DON'T MISS THE EPIC IN THE MAKING!

Superstars **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON** and **ANDREA MILANA**, alongside showrunner **ROBERT KIRKMAN**, kick off a new beginning for one of the most iconic villains as one man's sinister plans to utilize **ENERGON** will send shockwaves across the globe.

"A rip-roaring debut that both G.I. Joe acolytes and the completely uninitiated will find interesting and entertaining."
– CBR

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By Robert Kirkman and Lorenzo de Felici
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By Joshua Williamson and Tom Reilly
AVAILABLE NOW

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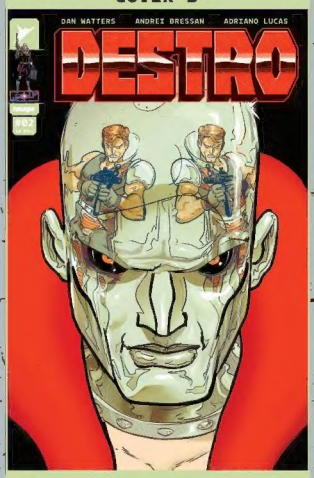
COLLECT ALL THESE EXCITING ENERGON UNIVERSE COVERS

COVER A

ANDREI BRESSAN & ADRIANO LUCAS

COVER B



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COVER D

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